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Subject: Hydroponics in organic certification

The NOSB Crops Committee requests that the following letter be forwarded to all accredited certifiers requesting information concerning their involvement with organic certification of hydroponics operations.

The National Organic Standards Board Crops Committee is seeking input from USDA accredited certifiers of organic producers regarding the certification of hydroponics operations. Specifically, the NOSB wishes to survey all organic certifiers regarding their policies and interpretations of the NOP Rule for hydroponics operations. This is an opportunity for certifiers to provide their input to help shape any NOSB recommendation to the NOP for rulemaking on hydroponics. Your response to this survey is greatly appreciated.

Your Name and Title_____

Certification Agency_____

Region of Operations_____

1. How many hydroponics operations do you currently certify any as organic?

If none, why not?

2. Do you think that organic certification of hydroponics is appropriate?

Why or why not?

3. In your opinion, where is clarification in the NOP Rule needed pertaining to practices used in hydroponics operations?

If you answered “no” to question #2, you may skip questions 4 through 6.

4. Do you maintain a list of allowed/prohibited substances for use in hydroponics?
5. In general terms, what are the main fertilizer inputs that hydroponics operations use?
6. Please list any potential certification issues with hydroponics that could arise in the future and should be addressed in any proposed guidelines.

Thank you for your participation in developing organic standards for hydroponics.

Sincerely,

Gerald Davis, NOSB Crops Committee Chair

Vote to approve item

4 yes, 0 no Absent- Ostiguy